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# Northern Region *News*

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

A Special Edition in Celebration of Wilderness

ISSUE 9

September 1994

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"To secure for  
the American  
people...  
an enduring  
resource of  
wilderness."

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**W**ould the United States Congress of today pass a Wilderness Bill, as the Congress in 1964 did 30 years ago? It's an interesting question, and brings to mind the legion of support that was necessary to enact the Wilderness Act of 1964. The contributions of that past effort have given us today's wilderness legacy that will serve for all tomorrows. The Forest Service played a major part in the movement for wilderness, evident in the National Forest System, where one acre in six is currently designated wilderness.

The wilderness movement originated in the 19th century with the writings of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir and other naturalists and poets. From the 20th century emerged such leaders as Aldo Leopold, Arthur Carhart and Bob Marshall, all Forest Service employees who spoke or wrote eloquently and forcefully on the need to set aside special areas for protection and conservation for their wilderness values; to balance the growing science of forestry and developed recreation.

In 1924, Aldo Leopold, a regional staff director for the Southwest Region, was instrumental in establishing the country's first designated wilderness--574,000 acres of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. While an administrative move primarily to preserve opportunities for "wilderness recreation," it triggered the evolution of agency regulations that recognized the need for lands to be targeted to preserve wilderness values. In 1939, Bob Marshall, the new chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands in the Forest Service, enacted the U Regulations, which further refined what was permitted in wilderness and wild areas. For the first time, roading and commercial timber harvest were excluded.

In 1949, Leopold wrote his "Sand County Almanac," articulating the wilderness concept, and, for the first time, a wilderness system was

proposed. Outlined by Howard Zahniser, executive director of the Wilderness Society, it was similar in structure to the system eventually proposed in the first wilderness bill in 1956. Zahniser very much wanted a cohesive program that would eliminate the need for continual, fragmented holding actions against various threats, and envisioned a wilderness act which would establish an permanent and enduring system.

So, in 1955, Zahniser, the Sierra Club, National Parks Association, National Wildlife Federation, and the Wildlife Management Institute drafted a bill which was introduced by John Saylor (R-PA) and Herbert Humphrey (D-MN).

Nine years later, 4 months after Zahniser's death, after 65 versions of bills, 18 hearings, and thousands of pages of testimony, the Wilderness Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson as Public Law 88-577 on September 3, 1964.

It was a tremendous achievement for those wilderness supporters who fought to the end, who remained undaunted by setbacks and refused to be discouraged by what had already been lost. Leopold commented in 1949 that "No living man will see again the long-grass prairie, where a sea of prairie flowers lapped at the stirrups of the pioneer." But, he continued, "the short-grass prairie, where Cabeza de Vaca saw the horizon under the bellies of the buffalo, is still extant in a few spots of 10,000-acre size, albeit severely chewed up by sheep, cattle, and dry-farmers." It was this attitude that brought about the creation of today's 96 million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System and the principles of wilderness stewardship that have guided, in the most literal sense, our wilderness stewardship practices for the past 30 years.



## a note from Dave

This year we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Wilderness Act, an expression of the value our country places on essentially "natural" landscapes. In few other areas in the country does wilderness shape and influence people's lives more than in the Northern Region, where over 5 million acres are currently designated wilderness, and approximately 2.3 million acres are being considered by Congress to become wilderness.

The wilderness definitions, values and management guidance found in the Wilderness Act have lasted and even increased in relevancy in the 30 years since the act was signed in 1964. What has changed is our job as wilderness managers. Once it was thought you could draw a line around wilderness and essentially leave it alone. Now we recognize that a much wider scope of activity is needed to protect the wilderness resource. Wilderness protection requires attention outside wilderness boundaries as well as within, and includes work by all disciplines of resource management. Our Region's Wilderness Council continues to exemplify this scope of wilderness management. The vision for Northern Region wilderness is as relevant

today as when the council wrote it 3 years ago.

I'm proud of our Region's strong wilderness program, and most importantly, all of us who work to preserve this enduring resource. We have more acres under prescribed natural fire guidance than any other region, providing the best opportunity for fire to play its important wilderness role. We have strong wilderness education programs helping shape a public land ethic, and showing wilderness visitors the practices that "leave no trace." We're aggressively working to curtail the introduction of exotic species. And through monitoring of air, water, vegetation and other components of wilderness, we're learning more about the future threats to these ecosystems. I'm confident our wilderness program fulfills that goal stated in the Wilderness Act, to leave wildernesses "unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness."



## WILDERNESS ALERT!

Chief and Staff made two decisions in August that will have long term effect on the Forest Service wilderness program and the National Wilderness Preservation System. It was just announced that a national director of wilderness position will be created at the Washington Office, separating the duties and responsibilities of that program from the director of Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Resources Management staff.

The second decision is that the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

(FC-RONRW) in Idaho will be administratively consolidated into a single all-wilderness management unit, the first in the Forest Service. It was previously managed by 2 regions, 6 national forests and 12 ranger districts. A unit manager, a position equivalent to a forest supervisor, will have sole responsibility for management of the FC-RONRW, and will report to the Intermountain regional forester.

More information about these decisions will be available soon.



## The Clearest Vision

### Vision Statement for Northern Region Wilderness

The wilderness of the Northern Region is a distinct and treasured resource, whose value to the Nation grows with each decade. Wilderness provides us with the opportunity to step back and let natural forces take the dominant role. While wilderness has long been revered as a setting for spiritual renewal, we are only beginning to understand its value to science and to the perpetuation of a healthy planet. With one national forest acre in five currently in wilderness, the Northern Region provides leadership in demonstrating the highest quality interdisciplinary stewardship of the wilderness resource.



Our unique and precious National Wilderness Preservation System is a very important part of our heritage as Americans. No other nation on earth has taken the initiative and committed the resources to defining, managing, and preserving vast areas of relatively undisturbed public lands for the long term benefit, use, and enjoyment of its citizens as has the United States. As the primary manager of wilderness the Forest Service has both a critical role to play and a proud tradition to uphold in the enlightened preservation of this uniquely American resource. Quite simply, the Forest Service has been the leader in all aspects of wilderness management since the concept developed.

Within wilderness and often predating the legislative creation of all wildernesses lie other unique, irreplaceable, and critically important pieces of our common heritage. These are the remarkable array of prehistoric archeological sites, historic buildings, trails, mines, and other physical remains of a human history in wilderness which reaches back at least 12,000 years to the time of the last Ice Age. These remains amount to a well preserved time capsule which gives us a glimpse into the epic story of American Indian and Euroamerican settlement of a continent. The historical, scientific, traditional, and esthetic value of cultural resources in wilderness is immense. From this perspective wilderness is a vast natural laboratory, a unique reservoir of knowledge which has escaped the rapid industrialization and urbanization characteristic of much of our Nation, and a source of inspiration on the relationship of humanity to our environment.

The Wilderness Act and the National Historic Preservation Act represent Congress's recognition of two equally important and inherently compatible resource values. The two acts were written and passed within two years of each other, were the work of many of the same people, and have weathered the controversies of the past 30 years with great success. Neither act supplants or replaces the other; and the challenge to the Forest Service is to meet our responsibilities under both in a sensitive, thoughtful, and informed manner. Happily the Forest Service has moved past the stage of unproductive philosophical arguments



*The Historic Big Prairie Ranger Station  
in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.  
Flathead National Forest, Montana.  
Photo ca. 1957.*

on the "pure preservation" of either resource at the expense of the other, and is making rapid progress towards balanced management.

Recent successes in balancing wilderness values and heritage resource values in Region 1 include the work of the Historic Building Preservation Team at Big Prairie in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Flathead National Forest; the remarkably productive archeological surveys conducted by the Custer National Forest in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness; and the excellent support provided by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office in development of a site management plan for the historic Moose Creek Ranger Station, Nez Perce National Forest. These successes show we can work well together!

Our public demands quality management and first class stewardship of our precious wilderness and heritage resources. Actions do speak louder than words and recent action in Region 1 demonstrates our commitment to both our cultural heritage and our American heritage of wilderness.

# Our American Heritage of Wilderness

by  
Mike Beckes,  
Regional Archeologist



# Can Wilderness Be Wild AND Barrier Free?

by  
Liz Close,  
Regional Wilderness Specialist

*"The one thing that I keep thinking about is how every time I come out and do some wilderness — or wildland, or whatever you call it — camping, I find out more who I am, and I stretch my limits a little bit. And I come back usually feeling — ALWAYS feeling like, 'Oh, well, you know, that was no big deal. I can do that.' And then I think, well, you know, what else can I do?"*

— Comments by Sue Singer, a wilderness user with cerebral palsy (Journey of Discovery, 1990).



Above: National accessibility specialist Joe Meade, of the Washington Office, and his guide dog Sandy, llama trekking in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Having a disability changes many things in a person's life. There is no proof that disability changes one aspect of life, and that is a person's need for wild places. In fact, people with disabilities may have a greater need for wilderness, as relief from the barriers of the "built" environment.

But can people with disabilities freely access and enjoy wilderness? Some feel that Federal laws, regulations and management practices associated with wilderness inherently discriminate against people with disabilities. The Wilderness Act specifically prohibits the use of motorized vehicles, mechanical transport, and other activities. The question becomes one of accessibility; what about people who need wheelchairs or other devices for mobility?

Another law, the Rehabilitation Act, requires all Federal programs, services and facilities to be accessible to people with disabilities. Federal wilderness management agencies, including the Forest Service, have enacted regulations and/or have the intent to allow wheelchairs in wilderness. But wilderness trails are not constructed to accommodate wheelchairs, nor are any provisions made to assist people with other forms of disability. So can we say that wilderness is truly accessible, as the Rehabilitation Act intended of Federal programs?

This question was asked in another piece of legislation, when in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law. The ADA primarily applies to private sector or State and local government programs and businesses, giving them requirements paralleling the Federal ones in the Rehab Act. But one section of the ADA applied to the Federal government, calling for a study of whether or not wilderness designation or

management discriminates against people with disabilities. The ADA also stated that, "Nothing in the Wilderness Act is to be construed as prohibiting the use of a wheelchair in a wilderness area by an individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair, and consistent with the Wilderness Act no agency is required to provide any form of special treatment or accommodation, or to construct any facilities or modify any conditions of lands within a wilderness area to facilitate such use."

During a survey conducted to compile data on wilderness use by people with disabilities, it was found that we have very little information. Few people with disabilities contact wilderness managers and little information had been published by wilderness areas targeting people with disabilities.

The most useful information for wilderness managers comes directly from people with disabilities themselves. From them we hear that "special treatment," especially that which alters the very wilderness they want to experience, is the last thing they desire. Wilderness travel is challenging for everyone. The rewards of traveling by horseback, in canoes or rafts, with the assistance of family, friends, or outfitters and guides or by other already-accessible means, are greater than any would be through altering wilderness itself.

We must work closely with people with disabilities to learn what truly accessible wilderness should be, and provide better information about what opportunities currently exist. We should also expand the realm of opportunities for wildland experience beyond the boundaries of designated wilderness, and work to increase public understanding of accessibility in all outdoor settings.



## WILDERNESS QUIZ

Can you identify these  
Northern Region wildernesses?  
(Answers on page 11)

1. Contains Granite Peak, the highest point in Montana.
2. In 1972, was the site of the first prescribed natural fire in the country.
3. Is adjacent to R-1's only National Recreation Area.
4. In a 1992 survey, contained actual occurrences of 11 sensitive or threatened and endangered plants.
5. Contains world class mineral deposits, which are being developed from outside the boundary by tunneling under the wilderness.
6. Is bordered by and managed in cooperation with the only tribal wilderness in the country.
7. Will go from being administered by 2 regions, 6 national forests and 12 ranger districts to becoming the first wilderness in the Forest Service to be managed as a single unit, like a "wilderness national forest."
8. The three wildernesses that make up the 1.5 million acre Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.
9. Includes important recovery habitat for the endangered woodland caribou.
10. Was named for an itinerant preacher and a feature shaped like a buffalo.
11. Was named after an historical feature on the adjacent Missouri River.
12. Is located only 20 miles south-east of Missoula, but gets very little use.
13. Is comprised of four geographically distinct units; three of which are managed by the Forest Service, while the fourth was the BLM's first classified wilderness.

# The Battle Rages On: Noxious Weeds in the Wilderness

by  
Jim Olivarez,  
Regional Noxious Weeds Coordinator

## Prevention Strategies

The Region has devised a prevention strategy that includes the use of weed-seed-free hay by all wilderness users both at trailheads and within the wilderness. This practice has initially been voluntary, as more sources of certified weed-free hay become available. Each forest is encouraged to develop a program making weed-seed-free feed and straw a requirement via forest closure orders by 1996.

Use of pelletized feed is increasing and is sanctioned (along with certified weed-seed-free forage) in nine of the thirteen national forests in the Region. The pelletized process eliminates live seeds and thus diminishes the spread of introduced vegetation. Currently there are sources for weed-seed-free feed available in 35 counties in Montana. Similar programs exist or are being initiated in Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska and Oregon.

Northern Region personnel have initiated several projects aimed at providing focus on weeds and wilderness management. Some examples are placing "Wanted—A Weed Free Wilderness" posters at trailheads, formal presentations at the outfitter and guide association winter and spring meetings, and interregional/interagency symposium on weed seed free feed, hosted and conducted by the Northern Region.

The management of noxious weeds in wilderness is a good example of the strong interdisciplinary approach to wilderness management in the Northern Region. It also demonstrates leadership in an area increasing in national concern. This cooperation and coordinated effort is critical. This is especially true with the growing acknowledgment that non-native species are the greatest threat to healthy ecosystems that exists today.

The number one issue and threat to the wilderness identified by the Northern Region to the Chief in 1993 was noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are any exotic or non-native plant species which may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities. It is agreed that such species have no place in wilderness, and wilderness should not serve as a "breeding ground" for weeds that would spread to invade adjacent lands.

Region 1, in cooperation with county, State, other Federal agencies, universities, and the private sector, has launched an aggressive program focused on the management of noxious weeds in wilderness. Some current activities near or within wilderness areas include use of herbicides to treat selected areas infested by spotted knapweed in the Absorka-Beartooth Wilderness, Gallatin National Forest, and in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Beaverhead National Forest. This year, herbicides were used on 111 sites with leafy spurge, Canada thistle and goatweed outbreaks covering a total area of 60 acres in the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wildernesses. Biological controls, such as the root boring moth, have been adopted by the Flathead and Nez Perce National Forests to combat noxious weeds in their respective wildernesses.

The Nez Perce National Forest is currently drafting a management strategy to address the problem of non-native species in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the grazing impact to vegetation by pack and saddle stock. Methods of control are being defined that meet objectives while causing the least disturbance to the wilderness resource.





## "Walking the Talk... and Carrying the Gear"

by  
Liz Close,  
Regional Wilderness Specialist



Front row, l to r: John Drake, Jim Hagemeyer, Jodi Canfield. Back row: Rodd Richardson, Alan Campbell, Walt Tomascak, Liz Close, Ron Haag, Beth Horn.

What do wilderness visitors experience when they shoulder their own gear and head for the hills? How do our management actions effect their wilderness experience? And how far can you lean off the trail to pick huckleberries before your backpack topples you over?

Yes, the huckleberries were out when members of the Northern Region Wilderness Council participated in a summer field meeting in the Mission Mountains Wilderness in July. The meeting began with an evening session at the Condon Work Center, with discussions about special areas management and integrated landscape assessments. Madison District Ranger Mark Petroni, Beaverhead National Forest, presented the Madison Ecosystem Management

Project which includes the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Jodi Canfield, Helena National Forest, shared her experiences as coordinator of the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit. Council members agreed that wilderness planning cannot stop at wilderness boundaries, but should extend to natural landscape units. But care must be taken that wilderness values are incorporated into these projects, not "lost in the shuffle."

Bigfork District Ranger Chuck Harris, assisted by wilderness rangers Kari Gunderson and Joe Flood, gave the group an orientation to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The next morning it was off to the Glacier Lake trailhead for the six mile hike to Lagoon Lake. Wilderness Council members and others brought and carried all their own food and gear, trudging up

the steadily-ascending trail. They stopped for discussions at the Glacier Lake site restoration project, various sites about trail conditions and fire history, and occasionally to talk to other hikers encountered.

In the evening, discussions around a low impact campfire included wilderness practices and regulations, the wilderness/ecosystem management link, and some deep philosophy about what is "natural." But the group all agreed on one point as they loaded up backpacks again the next morning—their trip was too short. So expect to see the Wilderness Council out again, not only talking about wilderness, but walkin' that talk; a very necessary part of wilderness program leadership.

## UPDATE

### ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER

by Alan Watson,  
Research Social Scientist  
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research staff is working on programs and research projects to provide useful information to wilderness managers. In addition to studies conducted by institute scientists, 14 new cooperative projects were initiated this year. The following is a brief summary of some current projects on human aspects of wilderness use:

- Llama use in wilderness: We worked with Utah State University and Ricks College last year to survey Jedediah Smith Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park visitors to learn whether people were aware of any llama impacts in areas of heavy llama use, and to understand their perceptions about the impacts llamas pose.

- The wilderness experience, as it unfolds. In order to develop a human experience monitoring plan for Juniper Prairie Wilderness in Florida, we just completed data collection using "experience sampling" to try to understand what it is visitors focus on during the trip, what defines the experience, what detracts from it, and how these items change as the trip unfolds.

We are turning this methodology to study visitors who stay for long periods of time in wilderness to see how we might be able to define peak experiences and understand the role these peak experiences play in determining the benefits of wilderness visits. This phase of the study will be conducted at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness—350,000 acres of wilderness on the border of Georgia and Florida.

- In Region 1, we are working with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to test alternative methods of monitoring social conditions, using self-issued diaries along with registration cards at trailheads. We are working with the Rocky Mountain District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest to further study Gates Park visitors' reactions and attitudes toward experiencing the effects of the 1988 fire along the North Fork of the Sun and we are working with the Lolo National Forest to study the impacts to visitors of various potential methods of managing intergroup conflict at the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area.

### ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

by Chris McCarthy Ryan,  
Wilderness Management Specialist  
Arthur Carhart  
National Wilderness Training Center

In July, the wilderness training center co-

sponsored a National Geographic Society teacher's Workshop on Wilderness in Portland, Oregon. The purpose of the workshop was to provide geography teachers with a basic understanding of the National Wilderness Preservation System, wilderness management values and issues, enabling them to write lesson plans for Geography Awareness Week (November 13-19). The topic of this year's celebration is "Geography-Keeping Wilderness in Sight." The teachers, from every State in the Nation, were excited to learn about wilderness and anxious to take this new-found information back to their students. The training may very well comprise the greatest strides we have ever made toward getting wilderness and land stewardship lessons into our schools.

We are in the final stages of several projects that should hit the forests and districts over the next couple of months. The K-8 wilderness box/land ethic curriculum, the wilderness planning training module, "Guidebook to Wilderness Fire Planning" and the draft wilderness restoration training module will be completed by early October. We are tentatively planning to offer a "train the trainers" course for wilderness planning this winter and also will be co-hosting, with the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center, a restoration workshop next spring in the Great Burn, a proposed wilderness in the Lolo and Clearwater National Forests.

There are lots more exciting projects in store for 1995, including completion of the high school wilderness box/land ethic curriculum and the outfitter and guide administration training module.



# The Peregrines are back!

# The Peregrines are Back!

by  
John Ormiston,  
Wildlife Biologist  
Bitterroot National Forest



**T**ake some time, energy, money, expertise, suitable habitat. Mix large quantities of each and, presto, the peregrine falcon returns to rule the skies of the Bitterroot Valley.

The peregrine falcon is a predatory bird, or raptor, at the top of a food chain and therefore never numerous in any habitat. It disappeared from the Bitterroot Valley sometime in the 1960's probably due to DDT and resultant egg shell thinning.

The East Coast population had collapsed earlier. As a consequence, researchers developed techniques for captive breeding and releasing birds to the wild. The Peregrine Fund, Inc., was organized to fund the expensive effort. With the East Coast population on the road to recovery, the Western populations attracted interest and energies were refocused.

The Montana Peregrine Falcon Working Group, formed in the early 1980's, began the slow, expensive process of reintroducing peregrines to Montana where no peregrines had nested for at least 20 years. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; National Park Service; Bureau of Land Management; Fish and Wildlife Service; Forest Service, and interested citizens met regularly with Peregrine Fund personnel to establish strategy, select release sites and acquire logistic and economic support for the recovery effort.

The five agencies and private partners like the Patagonia Corporation and the Liz Claiborne/Art Ortenburg Foundation provided funding for about six release sites annually. Ultimately these two partners provided nearly half the funding for the \$10,000 annual cost of breeding and releasing peregrines in the Bitterroot Forest.

The reintroduction effort originated near historic nests in the upper Yellowstone and Gallatin drainages near Yellowstone National Park. When birds began to return and select their own nests, the effort moved north and west. We selected a high rock cliff near Painted Rocks reservoir for the first release site in the Bitterroot Valley in 1989, from which five young peregrines were successfully dispersed.

All the birds released in 1990 and 1991 safely left the site after 5 to 6 weeks of constant attention from a pair of dedicated site attendants. Young peregrines depend upon their parents, or surrogate parents, to

feed them after they learn to fly and while they hone the flying skill necessary to take their own prey. Surprisingly, the "teenagers" released from sites learn to kill without training by parents. They also migrate on their own and, incredibly, some return to nest near the release site.

In 1992, a pair of peregrines took up residence on a cliff near Painted Rocks and we recorded the first nest established in the wild as part of the reintroduction effort in the Bitterroot Valley. The nesting effort failed because the female was only a yearling, but in 1993, two young peregrines were successfully born and reared from the nest overlooking the reservoir.

The presence of the territorial pair at Painted Rocks in 1992 caused us to move the release site to Canyon Creek, just west of Hamilton. However yet another returning pair, probably setting up housekeeping in Blodgett Canyon, disrupted the release effort with their territorial response to the young birds. Discovered in 1994, the nest in Blodgett Canyon produced two young.

In 1993, we located a release site in the vicinity of Lake Como, and again the site was disrupted by adult peregrines exhibiting territorial behavior. The probable nest in the Como area remains undetected.

The party's over, the celebration can begin. Peregrine falcons have been successfully reintroduced into the Bitterroot Valley and they're doing just fine on their own. At least three young peregrines flew from wild nests in the Bitterroot in 1994 and peregrines nested at ten or more other sites in Montana. The future seems bright. The time, energy, and money has been well spent.



Gotcha!  
A 40 day-old peregrine falcon starts the final phase of release to the wild.



# Awards to...

Trout Unlimited has selected **Michael Jakober**, lead fisheries technician for the Bitterroot National Forest, and Master's degree candidate at Montana State University, to receive the 1994 Lee Wulff Memorial Scholarship Award.

The national scholarship, established in 1991 as a tribute to wild trout conservationist Lee Wulff, is presented annually to a student doing cold water fisheries research. Through this award, Trout Unlimited hopes to perpetuate Lee's vision of sustainable aquatic resources and fisheries protection.

Mike's research has involved several aspects of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout habitat use and movement during autumn and winter, contrasting seasonal and drainage-specific patterns. His studies have used radio tracking, habitat measurements, and direct observation (snorkeling) to determine habitat preferences, movement patterns, and behavior. He also supervises the Bitterroot's "Stream Team"—a group of hard working seasonals conducting basin-wide surveys of remote anadromous fish streams in the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness.

"Mike has been a key part of our aquatic ecosystem analysis efforts for the last three years—both through his summer field

work, and his winter Master's research" says forest biologist Rich Torquemada. "His tireless efforts and dedication to native fishes is incredible. We are fortunate to have him on our team!"

Mike will be presenting a summary of his results at the national meeting of the American Fisheries Society this fall, before returning to Montana State University to complete his degree requirements.

**Chuck Bartlebaugh**, director of the Center for Wildlife Information, was recently presented with a Regional Forester's Award in recognition of public education programs he developed focusing on grizzly bear conservation and wildlife stewardship. His efforts to coordinate the project closely with other State and Federal agencies, particularly the Forest Service, has greatly facilitated and expanded public education efforts in wildlife conservation and stewardship.

The Center for Wildlife Information is a private, non-profit organization located in Missoula, Montana.

On June 1, Gallatin Forest Supervisor Dave Garber awarded the first Gallatin Forest

Supervisor's Award for Wilderness Excellence to **Chuck Mark**, Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest.

Chuck, assistant fire management officer for the Beartooth District, functioned as the IDT leader and COR for a two-year effort

to rewrite the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Prescribed Natural Fire Guidebook. The prescribed fire program in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness had been in suspension since the 1988 fires.

The team leader role also involved coordinating between five ranger districts, three forests, two regions, and several private contractors. Chuck's diligence, extraordinary effort and leadership were instrumental pulling the whole project together, allowing the Absaroka Beartooth to rekindle its prescribed natural fire program during the 1993/94 season.

The award was presented at the second annual spring "dry run" for prescribed natural fires in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The original "dry run" exercise was a brainchild of Chuck's to help prepare line officers, wilderness and fire staff and specialists to evaluate ignitions and make the go/no-go determinations for a prescribed natural fire.

*by Kimberly Schlenker, Wilderness/Recreation Staff Assistant, Gallatin National Forest*

Northern Region wilderness specialist **Liz Close** has been elected for a two-year term as secretary of the Wilderness Management Working Group of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The position places Liz in a national leadership role to offer direction and motivation of working group activities and programs. The announcement of the selection was made by Tom Kovalicky, former forest supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest, and chair of the Wilderness Management Working Group.

The SAF is a professional society for foresters that has as its mission to advance forest science, technology, practice, education, and a conservation ethic to benefit society.

## Correction

In the last issue of the Northern Region News, Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas was quoted as saying "I want to go into the 21st century known as the conservation leader of the world." The corrected quote is, "I want us to go into the 21st century everybody knowing that we are the conservation leaders of the world."



Chuck Mark, at right, receiving Wilderness Excellence Award from Dave Garber



Mike Jakober doing cold water fisheries research.



# Supervisors Teaching Supervisors

by  
George Regas  
Supervisory Forester,  
Elk City Ranger District,  
Nez Perce National Forest

What do you do when a contractor can't provide the service you need? As Forest Service employees, it's straight forward...you improvise! As an integral part of getting "back to the basics" in safety and project management, the Nez Perce National Forest Leadership Team identified a need for current training of our first line supervisors. A contractor was hired, but backed out at the last minute.

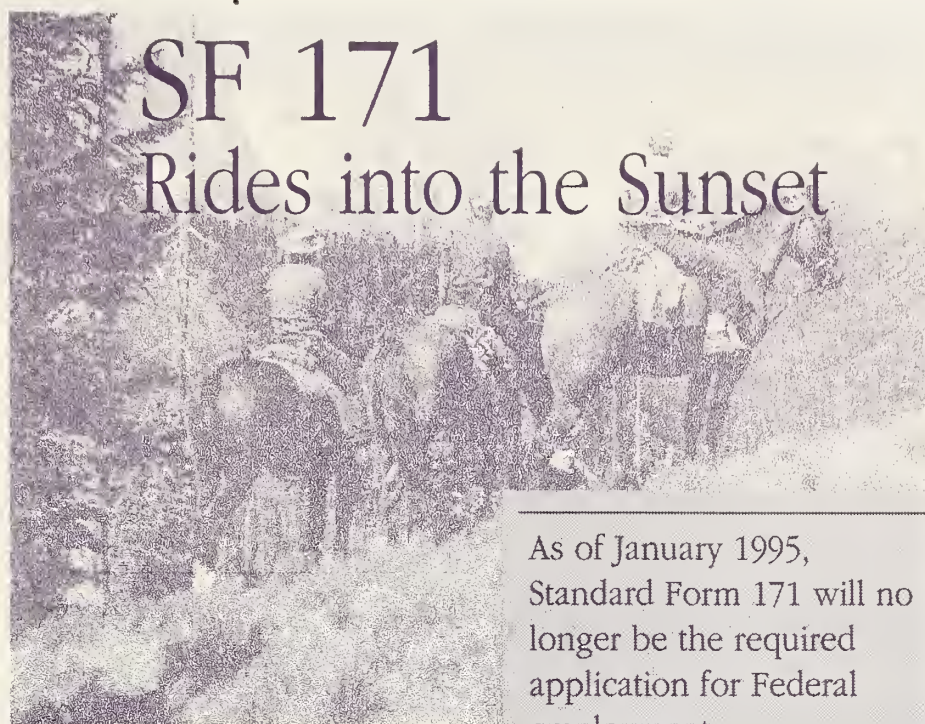
Training seasonal and temporary crew leaders was too important to wait another year, so forest employees Frank Bruno, Gayle Engstli, and George Regas organized a class using a cadre of supervisors as instructors. Instructors were Forest Supervisor Mike King and staff from both the supervisor's office and the districts, including: Frank Bruno, Deb Taylor, Dan Hinson, Kent Gilmore, Tim MacDonald, Phil Jahn, Wayne Delp, Cheryle Miller, Frank Ramsey, Jan Robinson, and George Regas.

The class addressed qualities and skills of a good supervisor, communication skills, production and work skills, employee relations/treating people with respect, safety and health awareness, crew motivation and management, and personal and organizational responsibility for continuing education and development.

The 27 participants were overwhelmingly positive about the session. They appreciated the variety of instructors and the relevancy of sharing practical experiences and struggles common to all supervisors.

The feedback was so positive that the forest is considering a follow-up session next year. Stay tuned...Who knows, maybe this will be a "reinvention action"? There's no doubt the training will help us provide improved customer service.

If you are interested in having a similar training in your forest, please contact George Regas, DG address: R01F17A.



As of January 1995, Standard Form 171 will no longer be the required application for Federal employment.

So it's not as traumatic as the closing of the Sears catalogue department or the retirement of Johnny Carson, but it is the end of an era—of sorts. As of January 1995, Standard Form 171 will no longer be the required application for Federal employment. What is even more shocking, the Federal Government will not require a standard application form for most jobs. At least, those are the changes being proposed by the Office of Personnel Management in the June 22 edition of the Federal Register.

SF 171 has been with us for 26 years, since 1968. You might say its origin goes back to 1938, with the creation of Form 8, the first standard form used for Federal employment. It was replaced in 1942 with SF 57, which was in service until the initiation of SF 171 in '68.

If the thoughts of pitching a neatly typed form you've spent years refining puts knots in your stomach, take heart. Applicants are given the option to continue using the 171. However those people new to Federal service, who have no time invested in the old form, may elect not to use it. In fact that's the reason given in the Federal Register for replacing it—that the SF 171 "is considered a barrier to attracting workers to the Federal service because it is long and complex."

That's not to say any information plunked on a page would compose an allowable application. Things haven't gone that far. Under the proposed changes, certain information must be contained within the application to be acceptable. For those who prefer using a form, two new optional forms have been drafted. Agencies may develop their own paper form or they may develop a computer-compatible version of the optional application forms.

The changes in phasing out a standard form does not affect the KSA (Knowledge, Skills and Ability) section of a Federal application except possibly to elevate its importance.

Other changes in personnel regulations coming down the pike:

- OPM proposes to eliminate time-in-grade requirements by January 1995. The intent of the restriction was to prevent excessively rapid promotions.

- Applicable only to promotions within the General Schedule (GS), the impact of these restrictions has been limited to promotions under agency promotion programs. The restriction has, at times, reduced competition by eliminating candidates who had the proven ability to perform the duties of higher grade positions, but have not served at least one year at the next lower grade in Federal Government positions. Eliminating the restriction would mean that employees' promotion eligibility will be based on meeting existing qualification standards which allows crediting of work experience outside the Federal Government at the equivalent Federal grade level.

- OPM proposes changes in sick leave rules. Under proposed rules employees would be allowed to use up to 5 days of sick leave each year to provide care for a child, spouse, or parents as a result of sickness, injury, pregnancy, or childbirth; to make arrangements necessitated by the death of a child, spouse, or parent, or to attend the funeral of a child, spouse or parent. In addition, OPM proposes to remove the 3-year break-in-service limitation on the recredit of sick leave and permit employees who separate from the Federal service to have their unused and accrued sick leave recredited in full to their sick leave accounts upon return to Federal service.



# Personnel Update

## BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BENGEYFIELD, PETE, hydrologist, SO, spot award  
 BIRRER, JACKIE, forestry aid, Madison RD, spot award  
 BROWN, KENNETH, forestry technician, Madison RD, spot award  
 BUMP, CATHERINE, rangeland management specialist, SO, time off award  
 CARPITA, SUZAN, operations resource clerk, SO, time off award  
 CHRISTENSEN, SHERRY, support services clerk, SO, special act/service award  
 DERKSEN, LEE, forester, SO, promotion  
 ELLIS, DAVE, forestry technician, Wise River RD, spot award  
 FREY, SHARON, mail & file clerk, SO, spot award  
 MILLER, JUANITA, resource assistant, SO, special act/service award  
 OWENBY, DICK, forester, SO, temporary promotion (acting forest supervisor)  
 RICE, DONALD, cartographic technician, SO, spot award  
 STEFANATZ, MARJORIE, senior community service employment program, SO, spot award  
 SUZUKI, KEVIN, range conservationist, Madison RD, spot award  
 SVOBODA, DAN, soil scientist, SO, spot award  
 TOMKINS, TERRY, forestry technician, Madison RD, spot award  
 WILLIAMS, CATHY, range conservationist, Madison RD, promotion  
 WILSON, MARK, forestry technician, Wise River RD, spot award

### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFER

ANDERSON, JIM, wildlife biologist, Cibola NF, R-3, reassignment, zone wildlife biologist, Wisdom/WiseRiver RD's

### NEW EMPLOYEES

BERRY, LARRY, telecommunications specialist, Chequamegon NF, R-9, to SO

## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDERSON, BROCK, surveying aid, SO, spot award  
 CUNDY, JUDY, purchasing agent, SO, promotion  
 HAIR, DON, fisheries biologist, Nicolet NF, promotion to fisheries biologist, SO  
 HINZMAN, KEN, civil engineering tech, Hungry Horse RD, cash award

### RESIGNATION

TOMAS, SUE, office automation clerk, SO, to Montana State Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kalispell

## GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

DENECKE, DICK, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award  
 MARTELL, STEVE, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award  
 STEIN, COLLEEN, computer clerk, SO, cash award

### REASSIGNMENTS

HOLLANDER, MARSHA, forester, Idaho Panhandle NF to Livingston RD  
 LERUM, JAN, public affairs specialist, Colville NF to SO

## IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALLEN, KATHERINE, forester, Priest Lake RD, promotion  
 BRO, MARGARET, computer specialist, SO, temporary promotion, supervisory computer specialist  
 STEVENS, LARRY, civil engineering technician, St. Maries RD, temporary promotion  
 WEEKS, RODNEY, supervisory forestry technician, Fernan RD, temporary promotion

### REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFERS

BARTH, RICHARD, forester, Wallace RD, reassignment, St. Maries RD  
 BUCK, LINDA, civil engineering technician, St. Maries RD, reassignment  
 BRIGGS, BRENT, forestry technician, St. Maries RD, reassignment

GRIFFITH, DENNIS, forester, Nez Perce NF, reassignment, St. Maries RD  
 LINCH, JOHN, supervisory forester, Wallace RD, reassignment, Priest Lake RD  
 ORTON, JOHN, forestry technician, Wallace RD, reassignment, St. Maries RD  
 YOUNG, BARBARA, soil scientist, Priest Lake RD, reassignment, St. Maries RD, duty station Avery RD

### RESIGNATIONS

BORLEAU, MARTY, civil engineering technician, Wallace RD  
 HAWKINS, GAYLE, forestry technician, SO

## NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BUTTON, LAURA J., office automation clerk, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 BUTTON, TIMOTHY, forestry technician, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 DOUGLAS, PAMELA S., support services supervisor, Selway RD, cash award  
 DOWELL, DEBI L., forestry technician, Moose Creek RD, cash award  
 HEIKEN, WILLIAM J., supervisory forester, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 HESSELBARTH, FORREST, forestry technician, Moose Creek RD, cash award  
 KAUFMANN, MARGARET M., computer assistant, SO, promotion  
 LEE, KEVIN P., forestry technician-smokejumper, SO, cash award  
 LIPPINCOTT, ROBERT E., forestry technician, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 LOWRY, MARVIN, forestry technician, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 MCDONALD, TIMOTHY, forestry technician, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 MILLER, CHERYLE L., personnel management specialist, SO, promotion  
 ROBERTS, ROBERT E., forester, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 SMITH, ALEX C., forestry technician, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 SOLBERG, PATTY M., forestry technician, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 STEPHENS, JAMES D., forestry technician, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 TEVEBAUGH, TIMOTHY A., forestry technician-smokejumper, SO, cash award  
 WASSMUTH, DEBRA A., resource clerk, Clearwater RD, cash award  
 WERLINE, EVA M., forestry technician, Salmon River RD, cash award  
 WOOD, NETTIE M., office automation clerk, Moose Creek RD, cash award

### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

PEDERSON, DARCY J., district ranger, Libby RD, Kootenai NF, reassignment, district ranger Clearwater RD  
 ZUMWALT, GERALD W., supervisory forestry technician-smokejumper, SO, promotion, Region 5

## REGIONAL OFFICE

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CUPLIN, SUE, contract specialist, ADM, promotion  
 GRAHAM, DEAN, rural development specialist, TCFPM, cash award  
 JOHNSON, TERRI, computer assistant, TCFPM, promotion  
 ROOT, SUE, forestry technician, WRHP, cash award

### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

LIGHTNER, GEORGE, forester, Region 6, promotion, TCFPM  
 STICKNEY, CHERYL, land law examiner, L&M, reassignment  
 ZARLING, JANICE B, computer specialist, Region 9, promotion, MS

## Retirement News

**Jim Brickell**, forester, RO Timber, Cooperative Forestry & Pest Management office, retired August 5, after 30 years with the Forest Service. He began his career in 1964 with the Intermountain Research Station in Moscow, Idaho, transferring to the Forest Service's experiment station in Blacksburg, Virginia. In 1977, he accepted a transfer/promotion to the RO Division of Planning, Programming and Budgeting. In 1981, Jim was reassigned to the forester (biometrics/mensuration) position until his retirement.

Jim will continue to live in Missoula until next spring, when he plans to return to his home area in eastern Washington.



# In Memoriam

**Charles "Rex" Hartgraves**, associate deputy chief for administration, Washington Office, retired July 3 after 35 years with the Forest Service. He was former supervisor of the Beaverhead National Forest (1971-74).

Rex moved to Washington, D.C., in 1974 as a staff assistant to the deputy chief of the National Forest System. He also held management posts in the Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Regions.

During retirement, for now, he will work on his golf game, read more, practice woodworking, and will not rule out trying his hand at business in the computer and software industry. Rex will reside in Ruidoso, New Mexico, where he can be closer to his family.

**Dick Roullier**, supervisory computer specialist, RO Management Systems, retired August 3, with 36 years of Federal Service. Dick's 33 years with the Forest Service were with the RO Management Systems office.

He and his wife will continue to make their home in Missoula.

**Stephan R. Sherick**, RO public affairs specialist, retired August 3 after 30 years with the Forest Service. He began work for the agency as a temporary employee during the summers of 1960-62 and 1964. From September 1957 to June 1965, he was a teacher at Butte Junior High School in Butte.

His permanent appointment with the Forest Service began in June 1965 with assignments as elementary teacher and corpsman supervisor at the Trapper Creek Job Corps Center, and as rural Center director for the Anaconda Civilian Conservation Center. In April 1971, he transferred to the Regional Public Affairs Office as program manager for environmental education, public participation and governmental affairs.

His retirement plans include fishing, hunting, farming/ranching, music (playing accordion with a group), and trapshooting. Steve, his wife Doris, and daughter Gina will continue to make their home in Missoula.

**William A. Grose**, 107, died July 20 in Missoula. He was born November 8, 1886, in England and came to the United States in 1921. Bill began working for the Forest Service in April 1938 when he and his wife moved to Missoula. He served as a master machinist at the equipment shops until his retirement on November 30, 1954. (Reference NRN of July 11, 1989, Issue #7)

**Edna M. Hodson**, 81, died July 27 in Richland, Washington. She was born in 1913, in Missoula. Edna began her Federal Service career with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C., later transferring to Philadelphia. After World War II, she received an appointment with the Forest Service in Montana, retiring in 1948 due to ill health.

She was an avid gardener and birdwatcher, loved the arts and enjoyed hand crafts.

**Larry N. Tregellas**, 51, died August 14 in Cavendish, Idaho. He first worked for the Forest Service in 1974 for the Clearwater National Forest in his hometown of Grangeville. He then transferred to the Tongass-Chatham Area National Forest, Sitka, Alaska; returning in 1990 to the Clearwater as a civil engineering technician in facilities management.

Larry was a member of the Elks Lodge, and enjoyed doing custom leather work, gardening, birdwatching, hunting, fishing, and public service work.



## Tips to LIVE By

by  
*George Regas,  
Supervisory Forester  
Elk City Ranger District  
Nez Perce National Forest*

The cornerstone of safety is to take time to assess the job and its environment. In order to encourage this principle, please consider using the "STOP" acronym to act as a reminder to pursue all jobs in a safe manner.

**S** - Step back and consider all aspects of the job. This includes yourself, your co-workers, equipment, vehicles, route of travel, activities, weather, special events (i.e. hunting season), terrain, etc.

**T** - Think about what you are about to do. This includes potential/real hazards, crew experience levels, influence of other activities/

happenings, distractors, specific safety message that needs to be communicated to co-workers, do my actions reflect my intent on emphasis on safety, etc.

**O** - Organize the job and co-workers to insure quality and quantity of task accomplishment. This diligent effort will achieve desired results in a "non-hurried" environment.

**P** - Proceed in a determined effort to accomplish given tasks in a safe manner. This means that all persons involved are consistently alert and keenly aware of being careful in all their actions.

### Answers to Wilderness Quiz, p. 5

1. Absaroka-Beartooth
2. Selway-Bitterroot
3. Rattlesnake
4. Anaconda-Pintler
5. Cabinet Mountains
6. Mission Mountains
7. Frank Church-River of No Return
8. Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, Great Bear
9. Salmo-Priest
10. Gospel Hump
11. Gates of the Mountains
12. Welcome Creek
13. Lee Metcalf

The editor would like to acknowledge the assistance of Liz Close in the preparation and coordination of the wilderness articles.

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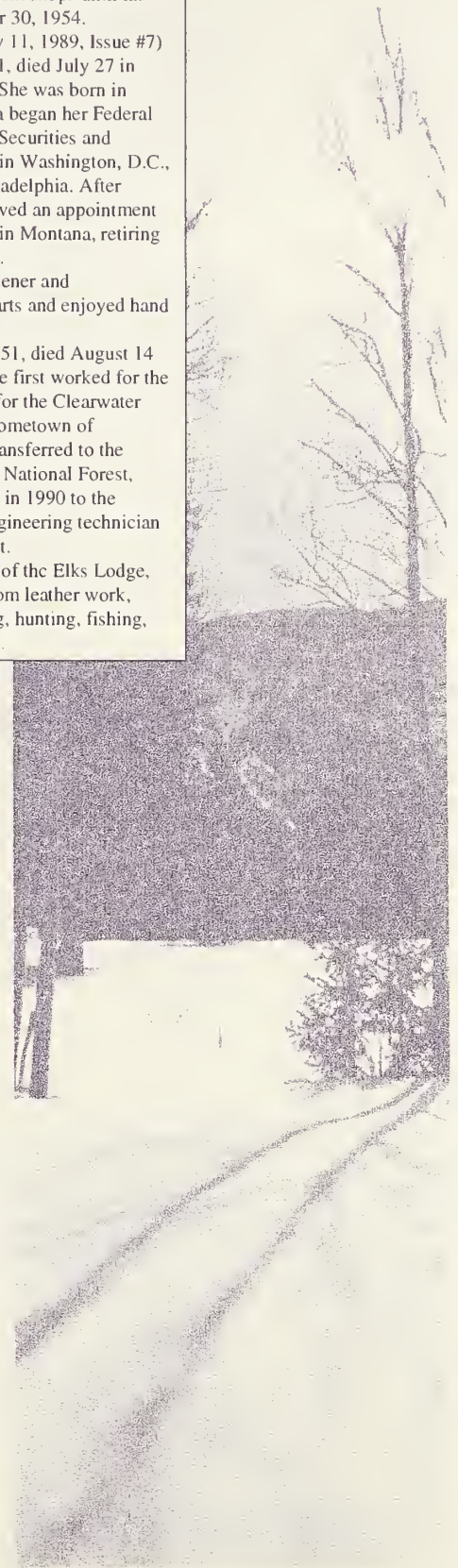
### Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.

Send articles to G.Weisgerber:R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

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# Fish Extravaganza

by Phoebe Siddall, Fish Biologist Technician  
Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest

The Clearwater Ranger District helped host its annual "Fish Extravaganza" fish derby during National Fishing Week this June. About 70 kids attended--and nearly 100 stocked rainbow trout. Three-year-old Zack Korn caught the biggest fish of the day, a whopping 18.5 inches long, which maxed out the scale!

The Clearwater Fishing Derby is conducted during National Fishing Week on the State of Idaho's free fishing day, during which Idaho residents can fish without licenses. "Hooked on Fishing International," which supplied prizes, posters and other materials, is sponsored by American Airlines, the American Sportfishing Association, Berkley Johnson Reels, K Mart, Kodak, Plano, Rain-Blo and Zebco Corporation.

Assisting the Clearwater Ranger District with the event were the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Cottonwood Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, the Nez Perce National Forest, the Grangeville Sunrise Lions Club and Grangeville-area merchants. Local resident Ted Wilkins generously donated the use of his pond, the Lions Club provided free hotdogs and hamburgers, and area-merchants donated lots of great prizes for the kids.

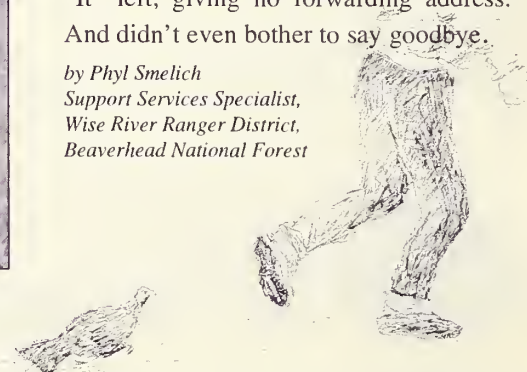


Tully FitzMaurice can barely lift all the fish he caught at the 1994 Clearwater District Fish Extravaganza!!!

## BIRD on an ire...

A spruce grouse or "foolhen" decided the ranger station compound at Wise River was just the place to put down roots and so moved in. "It" (so named by Wise River employees) was not a sociable neighbor and chased anyone who dared approach. Apparently no degree of consultation worked—or so it seemed. After four days, "It" left, giving no forwarding address. And didn't even bother to say goodbye.

by Phyl Smelich  
Support Services Specialist,  
Wise River Ranger District,  
Beaverhead National Forest



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